



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2700, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 24, 2009

Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

USDA Rural Development Recognizes Chase County Commission

Topeka – USDA Rural Development Business and Community Programs Director Gary Smith announced the recent recognition of the Chase County Commission for their valued partnership and continued support of USDA Rural Development programs. The Chase County Commission has provided outstanding promotion of the Agency's Community Facilities Program and economic development in Chase County.

The Commission utilized the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program for the total interior renovation of the Chase County Courthouse, which is the oldest courthouse in continual use west of the Mississippi River. Renovations preserved the historical integrity of the courthouse while upgrading plumbing, electrical, lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. The project also included upgrades for ADA compliance.

The \$2.915 million project was leveraged by \$1,513,300 in Rural Development loan assistance, a grant of \$300,000 from the Jones Trust, \$520,000 in Historical Preservation Tax Credits, as well as a contribution from Chase County.

Acting State Director Darla Buckman commented, "USDA Rural Development will continue to work vigorously with all of the Agency's partners to support local efforts to bring new business to rural Kansas. We compliment Kansans for utilizing these successful Agency programs".

USDA Rural Development is committed to help provide essential community and economic development programming for Kansas. To effectively leverage these important taxpayer-supported programs, the Agency works with many private sector partners who live and work in rural Kansas. The outstanding partnerships enjoyed by the USDA Rural Development allows more taxpayer dollars to return to Kansas.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities*